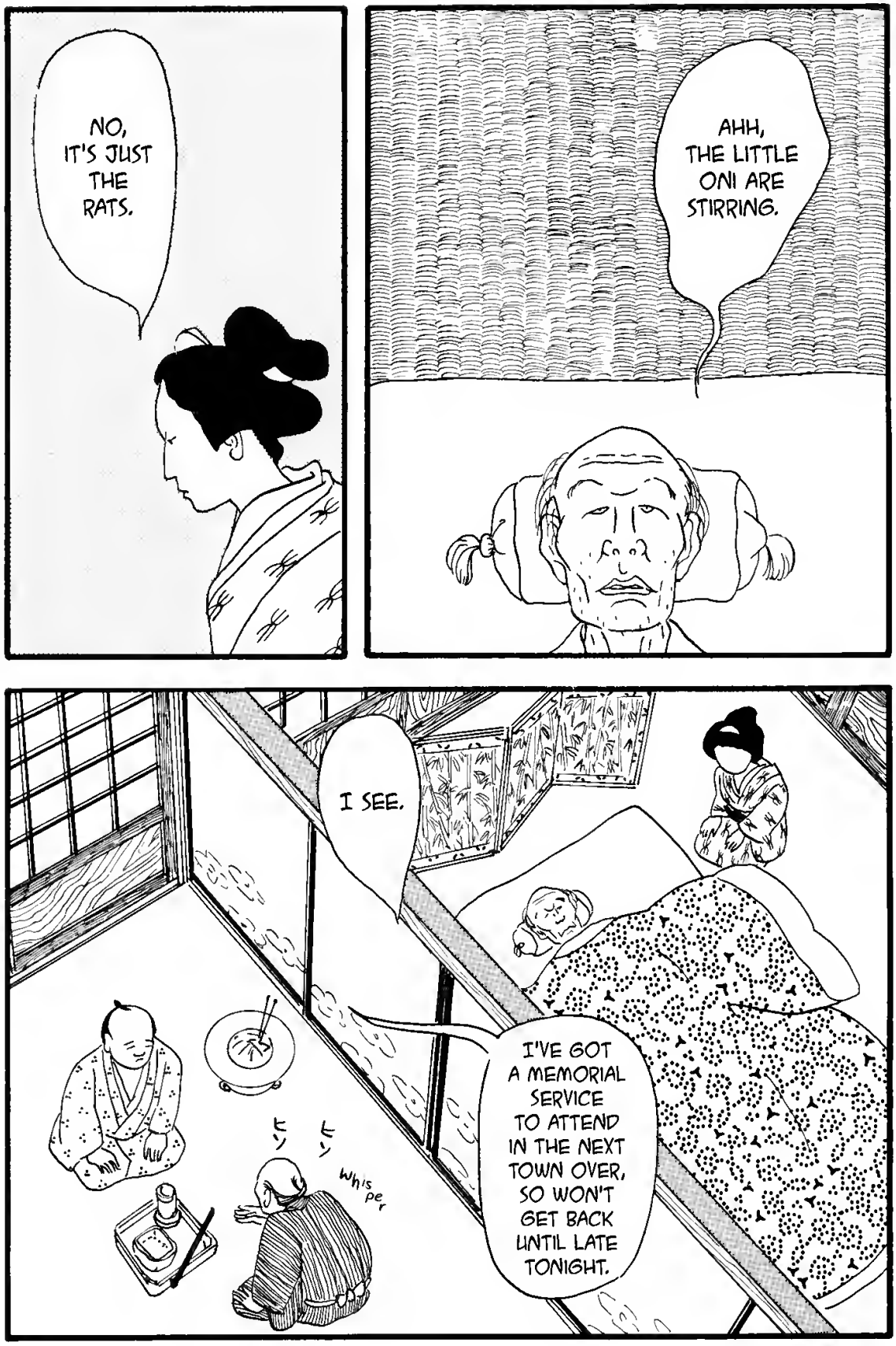
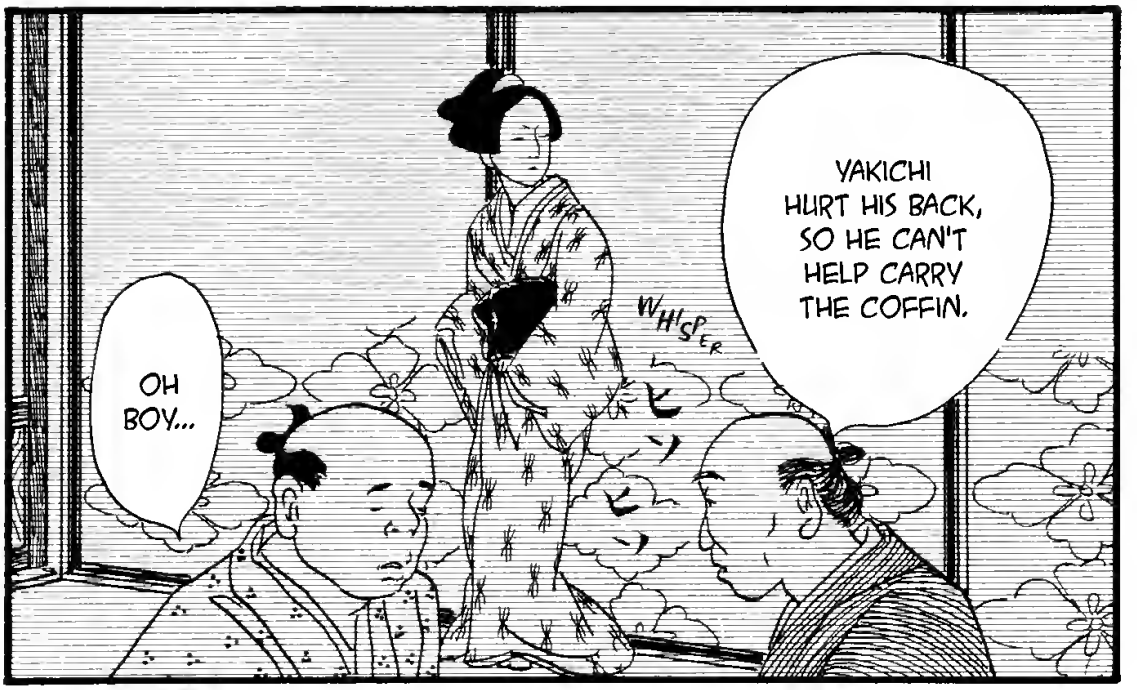
# Tale 38 & Tale 39

## Two Tales of Small Oni


NO, IT'S JUST THE RATS.
AHH, THE LITTLE ONI ARE STIRRING.
I SEE.
I'VE GOT A MEMORIAL SERVICE TO ATTEND IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER, SO WON'T GET BACK UNTIL LATE TONIGHT.
ヒソ ヒソ
Whisper


YAKICHI HURT HIS BACK, SO HE CAN'T HELP CARRY THE COFFIN.
OH BOY...
WHISPER
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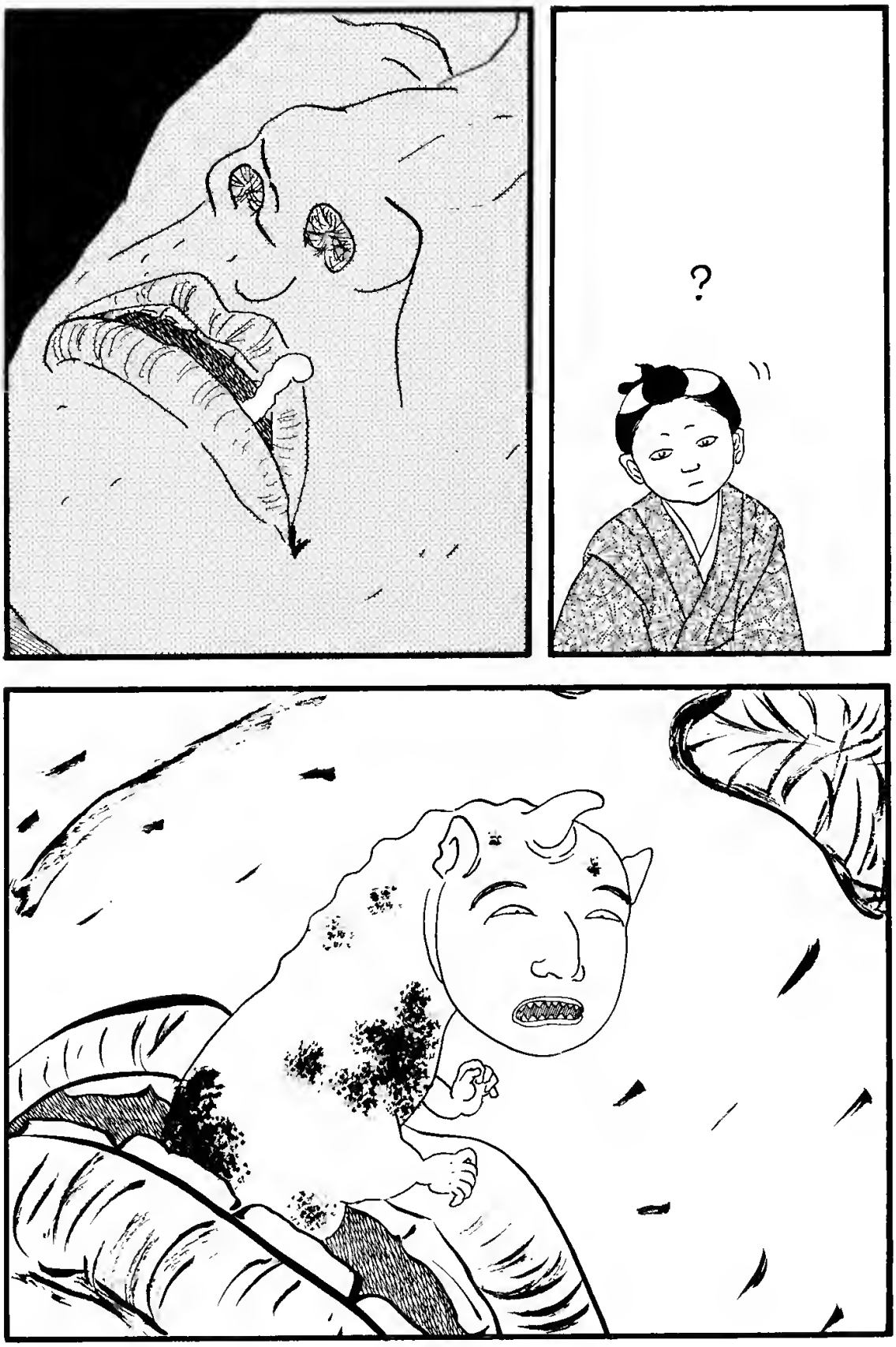

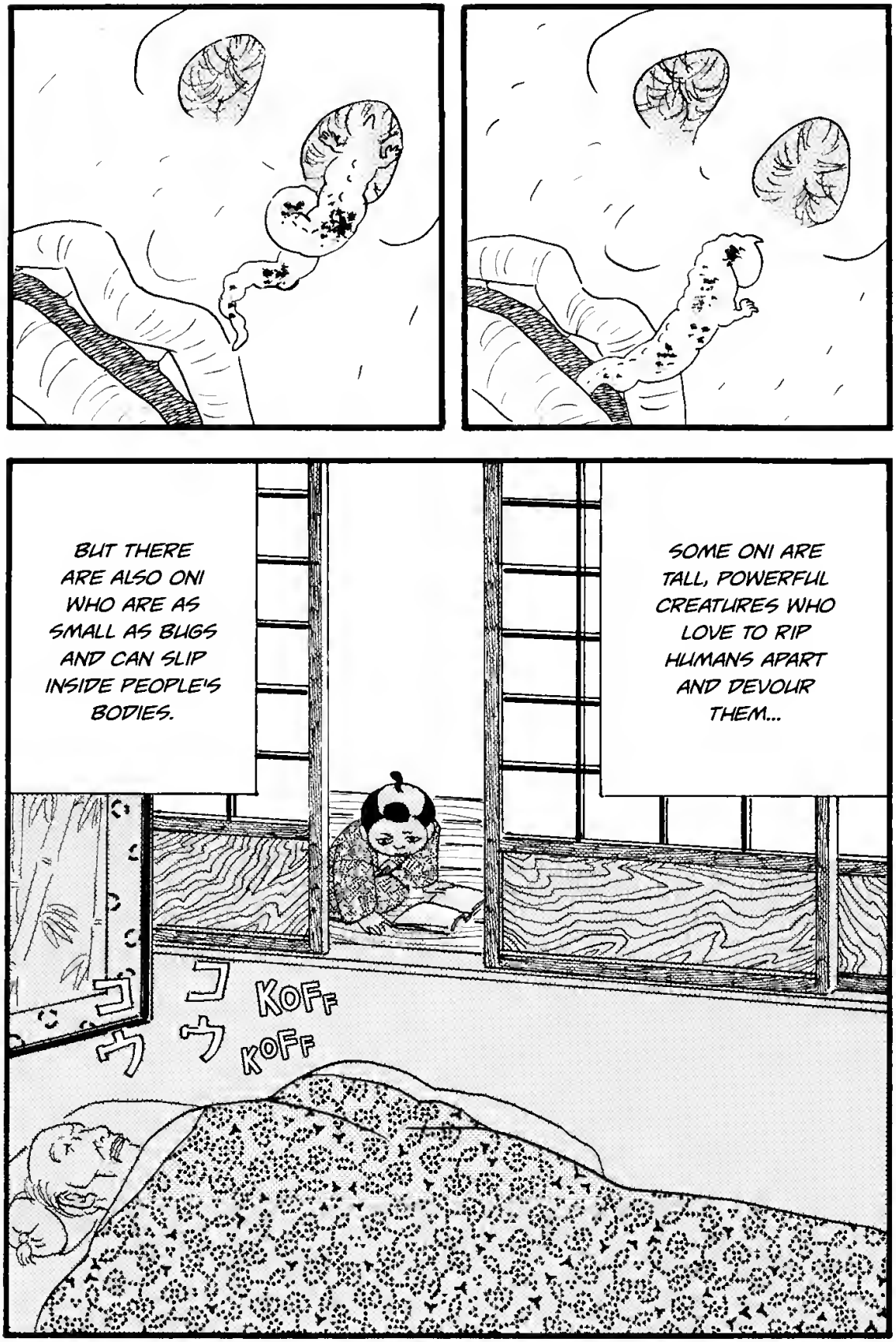
SOME ONI ARE TALL, POWERFUL CREATURES WHO LOVE TO RIP HUMANS APART AND DEVOUR THEM...
BUT THERE ARE ALSO ONI WHO ARE AS SMALL AS BUGS AND CAN SLIP INSIDE PEOPLE'S BODIES.
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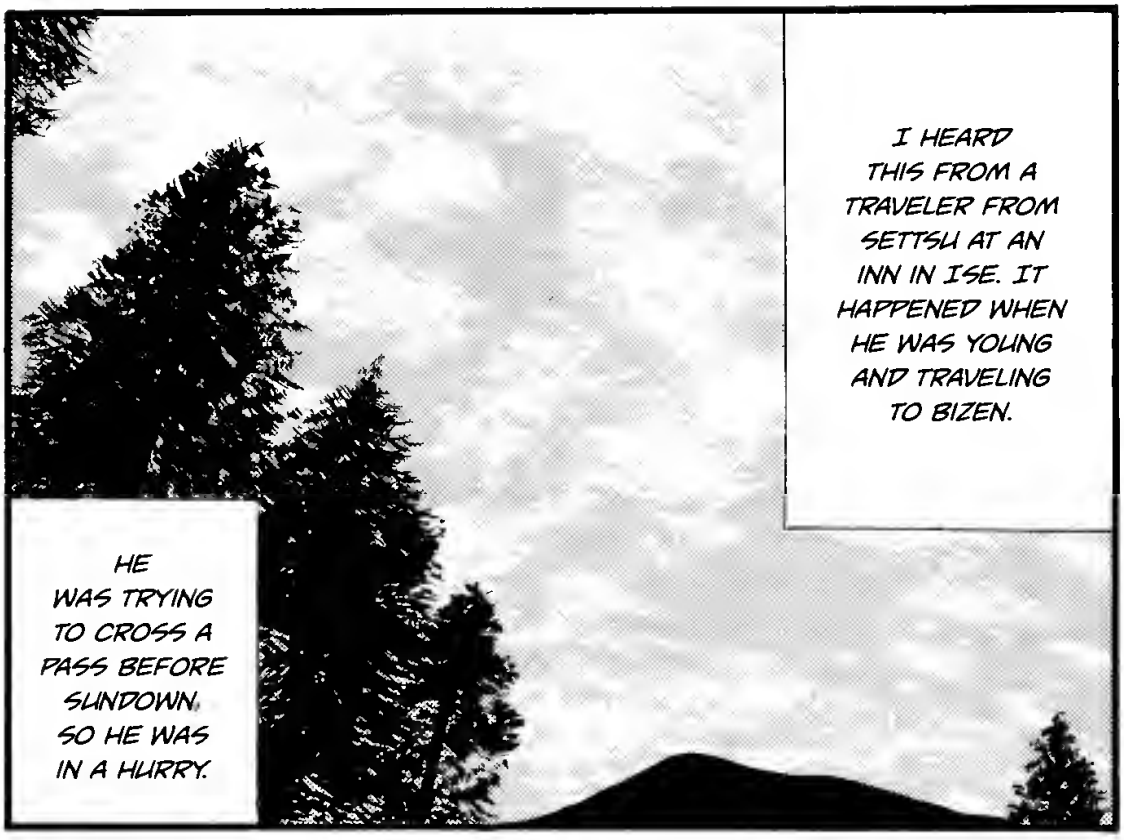
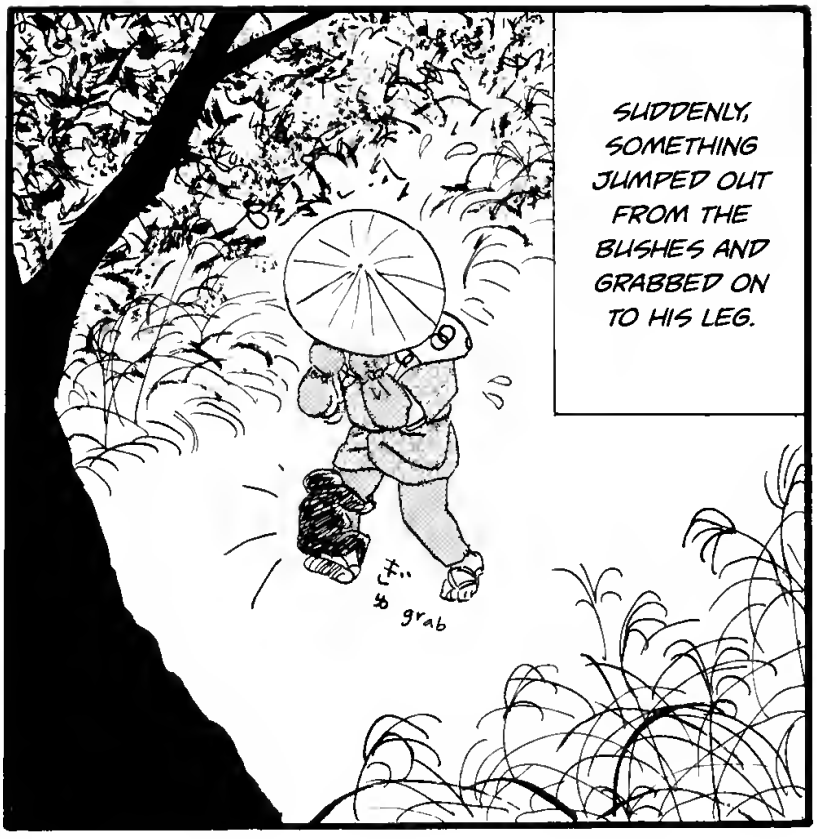
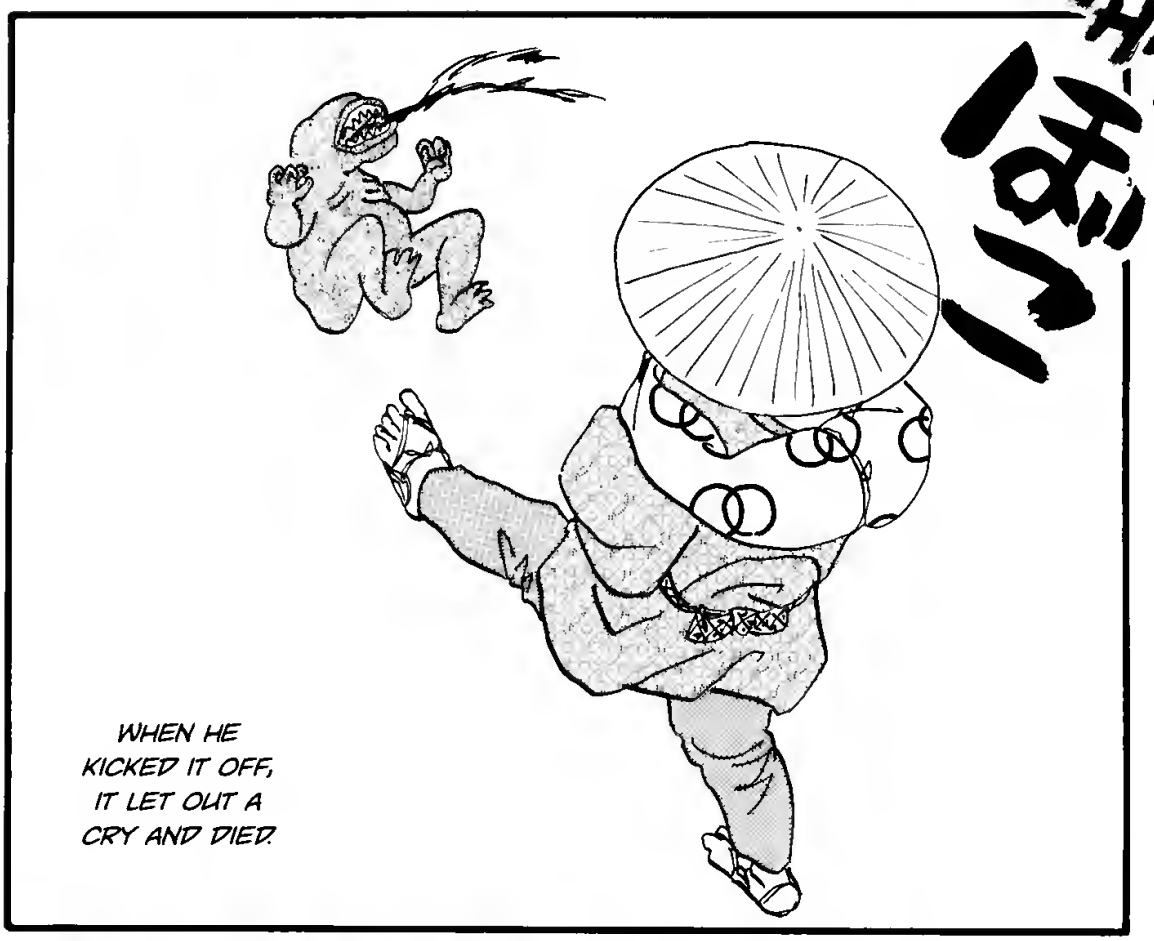
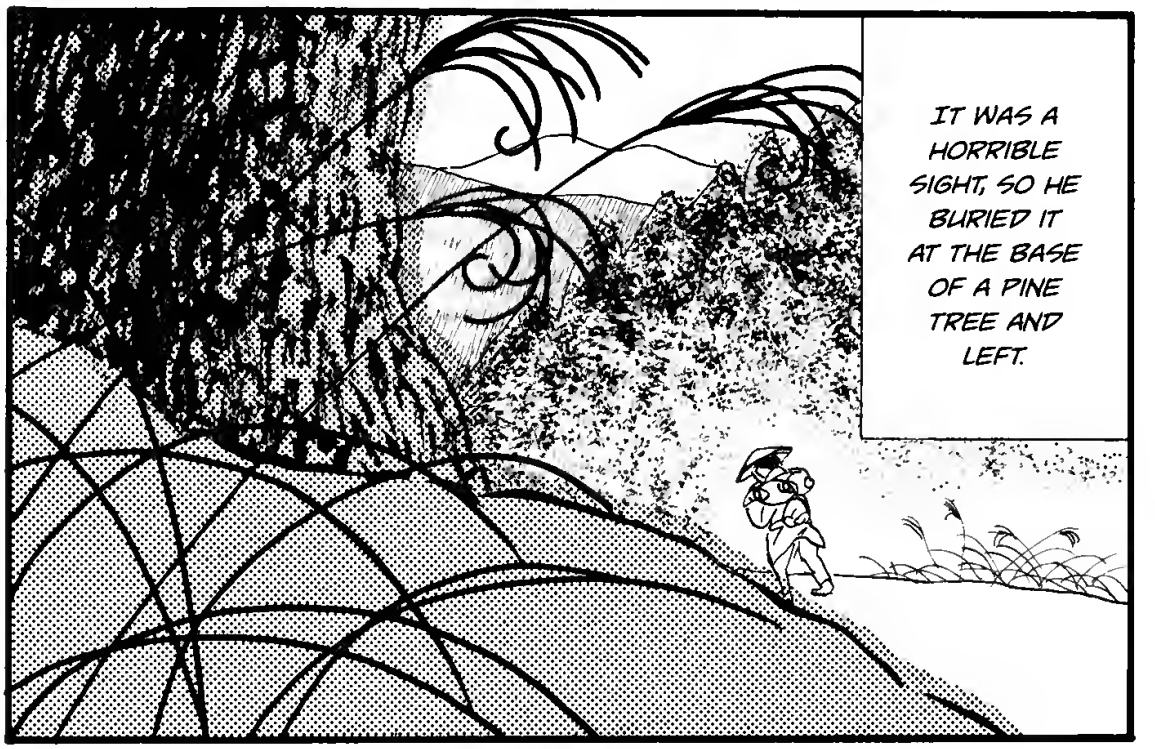
KOFF

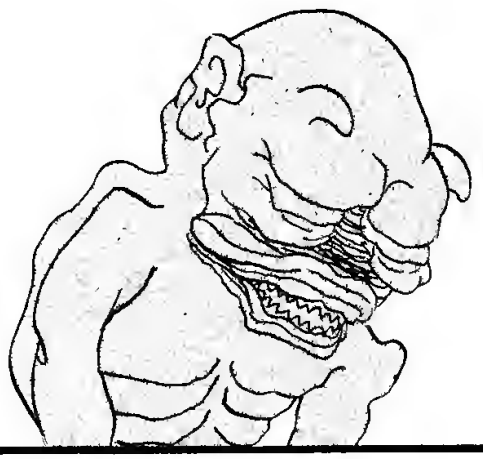

I HEARD THIS FROM A TRAVELER FROM SETTSU AT AN INN IN ISE. IT HAPPENED WHEN HE WAS YOUNG AND TRAVELING TO BIZEN.
HE WAS TRYING TO CROSS A PASS BEFORE SUNDOWN, SO HE WAS IN A HURRY.


SUDDENLY, SOMETHING JUMPED OUT FROM THE BUSHES AND GRABBED ON TO HIS LEG.
grab


WHAM
ばっ!
WHEN HE KICKED IT OFF, IT LET OUT A CRY AND DIED.


IT WAS A HORRIBLE SIGHT, SO HE BURIED IT AT THE BASE OF A PINE TREE AND LEFT.

IT WAS SUCH A RARE SIGHT THAT PEOPLE CAME FROM ALL OVER TO SEE IT. BUT I STILL HAVEN'T GONE TO SEE IT MYSELF, THE MAN SAID WITH A LAUGH.



YEARS LATER, A SMALL STONE FIGURE WAS DUG UP FROM THE BASE OF THE PINE TREE.

IT HAD A DARK, DISTORTED FACE AND LOOKED QUITE UGLY, BUT ITS FINGERS AND HANDS LOOKED QUITE LIFELIKE.